

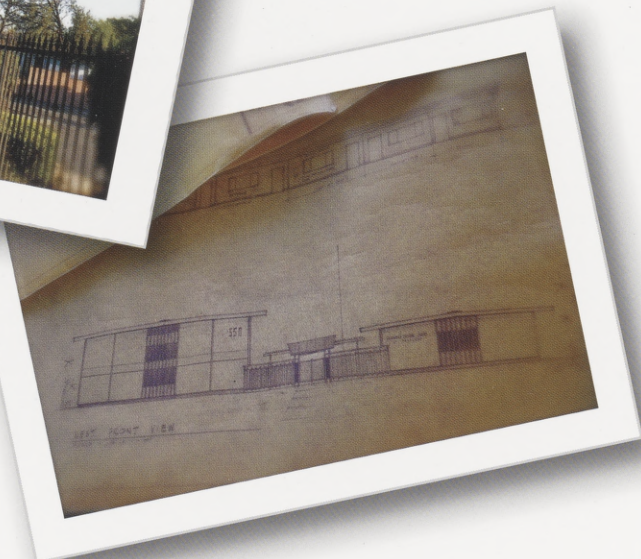


PJCI



Homecoming






PASADENA
Japanese Cultural Institute

PASADENA JAPANESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE

ANNIVERSARY



March 18, 2012

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute Board of Directors, we welcome everyone to our 50th Anniversary Celebration. It is with great pleasure and pride that we are here to thank our community for your commitment and support to preserving our Japanese and Japanese American culture and community.

Over 50 years ago the founders of our institute envisioned a community center that offered a place where Japanese language, cultural, and martial arts could be taught and where the Japanese community could gather for support and friendship. As generations have passed, our community has become a tapestry of multicultural families who share an interest in the Japanese culture. Today, the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute serves over 400 member families through the Pasadena Japanese Language School, seven martial arts groups, cultural arts groups, the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors and the Pasadena Bruins youth basketball program. Every week, hundreds of participants pass through our doors.

Today, we recognize a few of our "Community Treasures" for their decades of volunteer service and commitment to our community. Maki Miyahara, Jim Moore, Hitoshi Sameshima and Kiyoshi Takeda have dedicated themselves to preserving our culture and strengthening our community for generations to come. We also recognize the founders of the Pasadena Pioneer Project, who, as young teenagers, had a vision to form a group to serve the senior citizens of our community. Their activities, such as periodic luncheons and trips to view wildflowers, have grown and matured to become what is now the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors organization.

The Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute wishes to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped us achieve our success over the last 50 years. Without your support, we could not serve our community. We look forward to an exciting future.

Sincerely,

Rick Beal
President

Bryan Takeda
50th Anniversary Chair

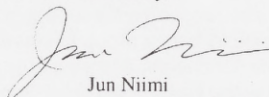
CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN
350 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE, SUITE 1700
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90071
TELEPHONE (213) 617-6700

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary Celebration. On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to thank the organization, its leadership and membership over the years for their devotion to bringing and preserving Japanese culture to and in the San Gabriel Valley for the past half century.

Initially conceived with a mission to provide local Japanese language and cultural courses, the PJCI exceeded its goal by expanding to serve the various needs and interests of its Pasadena community. Benefiting groups including students, scouts, and seniors, the PJCI also grew in its repertoire of Japanese cultural offerings, beginning with judo and kendo and adding ikebana, shodo, bonsai, taiko, and much more. Among the PJCI's many contributions has also been two Nisei Week queens, who have represented the Japanese and Japanese American communities in greater Los Angeles, nationally, and internationally.

This Golden Anniversary commemorates the initiative of the 15 original founders, who began a grassroots movement that has grown into an organization touching the lives of generations. I would like to thank them for their vision, and commend successive leaders and community participants for creating a strong bridge of friendship and mutual understanding between Pasadena and Japan. As the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute looks, plans, and moves forward, please accept my congratulations and best wishes for your continued growth and success.

Sincerely,



Jun Niimi
Consul General of Japan



ADAM B. SCHIFF

Member of Congress

March 18, 2012

Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute
595 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 201
Pasadena, CA 91103

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I join you in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute.

Established as a place where Japanese culture, language, arts and values are practiced and preserved, the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute serves hundreds of children and adults from the surrounding community each week with classes, activities, and events. This remarkable Pasadena institution promotes the rich heritage of the Japanese culture made possible through the immense commitment and support of its volunteers.

I would like to congratulate today's *Community Treasures* Maki Miyahara, Jim Moore, Hitoshi Sameshima, and Kiyoshi Takeda for their years of dedication, service and leadership to the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute. Additionally, I extend my congratulations to the founders of the Pasadena Pioneer Project, now the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors, for providing services and keeping our Pasadena Japanese seniors active and involved in the community.

Pasadena Cultural Center gojyuu shuunen omedetou gozaimasu!

Sincerely,

ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress





Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
SUPERVISOR

March 18, 2012

Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute
595 Lincoln Ave., Suite 201
Pasadena, CA 91103

Dear Friends:

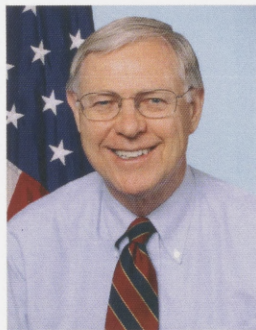
Welcome to the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute.

Home to the largest Japanese-American population in the United States, Los Angeles County appreciates the continued efforts of the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute in bringing cultural awareness to our community.

Best wishes for a successful event and your continued success representing and honoring the proud heritage of our Japanese-American community.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Supervisor





OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

March 18, 2012

Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute
595 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 201
Pasadena, CA 91103

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure for me, on behalf of the City Council, to convey congratulations and best wishes to the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute upon its 50th anniversary. Pasadena is proud to have such an important institution in its midst, and is benefited by the provision of quality services to persons who are interested in the practice and preservation of Japanese culture, language, arts, and values.

The Japanese Cultural Institute is entitled to be proud of its long and distinguished record. Pasadena is a special community for many reasons, including its history, its architecture, its neighborhoods and parks, its strong economy, and its great cultural and academic institutions. But above all, what makes Pasadena great is the generous spirit and the commitment to community service of its people.

As you celebrate the completion of 50 years, I look forward as Mayor to your continued service and success, knowing that this celebration will be the occasion for a commitment by the Institute to continue its important work.

Sincerely,

BILL BOGAARD
Mayor

BB:jls

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 5061
SACRAMENTO CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4021
FAX (916) 324-7543

California State Senate

SENATOR
CAROL LIU

TWENTY-FIRST SENATE DISTRICT



DISTRICT OFFICE
501 N. CENTRAL AVENUE
GLENDALE, CA 91203
TEL (818) 409-0400
FAX (818) 409-1256

March 18, 2012

Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute
c/o Bryan Takeda, 50th Anniversary Chair
595 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 201
Pasadena, CA 91103



Dear Friends,

I would like to recognize the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute for fifty years of dedication and commitment to cultural education and advocacy. It is truly an honor to represent the vibrant city of Pasadena and I am pleased to be a part of your 50th Anniversary celebration.

In 2012, I look forward to another year of success and progress. I commend all of you in helping others pursue cultural awareness as it still serves an important purpose in our community. I believe that we can truly make a difference by working together, and please do not hesitate to contact our office if we may be of assistance.

Thank you again, best wishes for continued success!

Sincerely,

CAROL LIU
Senator
21st Senate District



The Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute was established over 70 years ago to provide a place where Japanese culture, language, arts and values could be practiced and preserved. Originally located on Del Mar Avenue in Pasadena, the founders envisioned a center where the entire community could come together to celebrate and preserve the Japanese language and culture and where future generations of Japanese Americans could learn and appreciate all that the Japanese culture and heritage has to offer.

In 1962, the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute was built at its current location on Lincoln Avenue. Original Board of Directors included Masao Hara, Kishiro Ito, Hinasuke Kawahara, Kiyoshi Kiyomura, Ben Mito, Joe Mitsuhiro, Hiroji Miyahara, Shiro Nakamura, Sueji Nishimura, Isao Sakaguchi, Henry Sawada, Yaemitsu Sugimachi, Yoshinobu Takiguchi, Isao Toshima and Hitoshi Yoneda. The primary purpose of the Center was to "operate and maintain a school or cultural institute, to teach Japanese language, and to conduct studies in the Oriental arts." It was the home of Pasadena Gakuen and housed *judo* and *kendo* dojos. Pasadena's venerable Boy Scout Troop 41 also found a home at the PJCI.

The early 1970's was a "financial crisis" that forced a re-organization of the PJCI, and under the leadership of Dr. Kiyoshi Ogawa, the PJCI once again became a viable organization. Over the next several years, many new groups established classes at the center, including the Pasadena Aiki-kai, Shodo-kai, and the Pasadena Pioneer Project. The PJCI Annual Bazaar attracted participation by many other community groups including the Pasadena Buddhist Temple, The Crown City Gardener's Association, the Pasadena Japanese Athletic Association, the Japanese American Citizens League, the Crown City Optimists, the Landscape Gardeners Association and the Backlashers fishing club.

In the decades following, the many groups and organizations of the center continue to serve an increasing number of members and students while celebrating milestone anniversaries. Through the increased usage of the facilities, property maintenance and improvements become an ongoing challenge, but through the volunteer efforts and generosity of its members as well as rental income from its tenants, the center is able to continue operations and offer Japanese cultural and community programs to members.

Today, the center is home to the Pasadena Japanese Language School, the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors, as well as a place for the instruction of Aikido, Ikebana, Integrated Martial Arts, Judo, Kendo, Kyudo, Naginata, Qi-Gong, and Taiko. As a non-profit organization, the center is operated solely by volunteer help and support, and continues to serve hundreds of children and adults from the community each week.



PASADENA NIKKEI SENIORS



PASADENA NIKKEI SENIORS

The Pasadena Nikkei Seniors was formerly the Pasadena Pioneer Project. This project was the outgrowth of the activities of the Sansei Pasadena Asian Concern group who decided in 1971 to raise funds through a car wash, bake sale and donations to sponsor a Hanami trip for the Issei of the community. The event was very successful and so appreciated by the Issei that it was repeated in 1972 and 1973.

In 1974, interest in a permanent pioneer group for the Pasadena area grew. Among the leaders spearheading this movement were Sumi Maruyama, Kathy Maruyama, Dorothy Iwanaga, Itsy Ota, Greg Hamane, Mark Matsui, Nancy Ota, Barbara Ito, Amy Ota and Wade Utsunomiya. A meeting room was generously donated by the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute.

In March 1975, the Pasadena Pioneer Project was incorporated to provide services and facilities for the elderly. The following three years were difficult as the Project struggled for survival. Through the efforts of a few committed volunteers, the Project carried on its activities of providing trips and programs for the Issei.

In 1979, because of the interest of more volunteers and community groups, the Project became a more viable organization. The Board of Directors was expanded and additional committees were formed to assist the Issei. The project had come of age.

Much emphasis was placed on providing outings for the Issei as they indicated that trips were high in their choice of activities. Among the trips the Project provided free of charge were visits to the hot springs, orchid farm, apple farm, Catalina, Ice Capades, Hanami, Solvang, Meiji Market, William Hart Ranch and the California Koi Farm. Other activities that were initiated were the Annual New Year Party, where Issei age eighty-eight and older are honored, as well as health and safety programs and participation at the local community festivals. As a member of the California Federation of Pioneer Centers, the project expanded its activities to bring together the Issei from other communities. On December 15, 1985, the name of the organization was officially changed to the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors, Inc. to reflect the changing needs of its members.

Although activities continue for the Issei, the focus has been shifted to the needs of other older Nikkei of the community. The continuing success of the organization has been due to the cooperation and collaboration of other community organizations and the leadership of many persons. Noteworthy were the dedication and service of Sumi Maruyama, Ida Nakayama and Ana Seiki since the early days of the organization. Most recently and for the last 25 years, Mr. Kiyoshi Takeda has served as President to make the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors a viable and respected organization in our community.

PJCI MEMORIES





SINCE 1962



MAKI MIYAHARA

MIYAHARA SENSEI

Maki Hiroyuki Miyahara was born on May 8, 1921 in Montebello, California. He is a graduate of Park College, Missouri, with a degree in mechanical engineering. He was interned at Pomona Assembly Center and Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming. He served in the MIS during WW II, worked for GHQ in Japan following his military discharge, and returned to the United States in 1954. Before retiring from mechanical engineering, he did mechanical engineering for the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute, Higashi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, and the Zenshuji Soto Mission.

At the age of 11, he started learning kendo from his father, Hiroji Miyahara, who was teaching at six dojos and instructed him in a strict manner. He has been involved in kendo since that time – nearly 80 years. At present, he holds the title of hanshi 8-dan, and is currently the highest-ranking kendoist in the United States.

He was head-instructor to the PJCI (*name changed to PJCI after the building of the new facility*) from 1955 - to the mid-1990's, the San Fernando Kendo Federation from 1978 to the mid-1990's, at Pomona College from 1972 to 1975, and advised the UCLA Kendo Club from 1971 to 1975. He has led seminars in Canada, Mexico, and in the U.S. He has held prominent positions at the Kendo Federation of the United States of America and at the All United States Kendo Federation. In 1973, he initiated the creation of official by-laws for the Southern California Kendo Federation where he has remained an advisor year after year. He was on the U.S. team in the 2nd International Kendo Championship and in 1976, coached the U.S. team to a 3rd place team victory in London, England.

Mr. Miyahara was awarded the "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays" on July 21, 2011 for his contributions of the promotion of kendo and the enhancement of friendly relations between the U.S. and Japan and was inducted into the Black Belt Hall of Fame in 1971.

He has been teaching the art of kendo and investing in the lives of kendoists throughout his entire life, strongly aspiring to the wider understanding and development of kendo. Mr Miyahara's dream is to complete the kendo book he started years ago and is the happiest when repairing and balancing the bamboo swords for his kendo students.



HITOSHI SAMESHIMA

HITOSHI SAMESHIMA

If you wanted to personify 'Community Treasure', Hitoshi Sameshima could be its poster boy. After working 38 years as a Los Angeles County employee, Hitoshi retired in 1983 and dove head on as a volunteer in numerous organizations. The WWII veteran has been a member of VFW Post 9938 and the 100/442/MIS Go For Broke Foundation, and has served as President of the Military Intelligence Service Association of Southern California. He's also a Charter Member and has been an Executive Board Member of the National Japanese American Veterans Council.

Long known as a volunteer docent for the Japanese American National Museum, Hitoshi has selflessly served two Pasadena institutions, devoting over 30 years to the Crown City Optimists and the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute. Each organization has also benefited from his leadership qualities as he has served terms as President for both groups. For the PJCI, Hitoshi was one of the Nisei board members who served as mentor and role model for new board members learning their duties as the PJCI Board transitioned to a predominantly *sansei* make-up. And his service to the community has not gone unnoticed as he has been honored with the Pasadena Cherry Blossom Leadership Award and has been recognized as a Nisei Week Pioneer.

After his many years of service, Hitoshi has gradually lessened his role in the community so that he can spend more time with Utako, his wife of over 60 years.



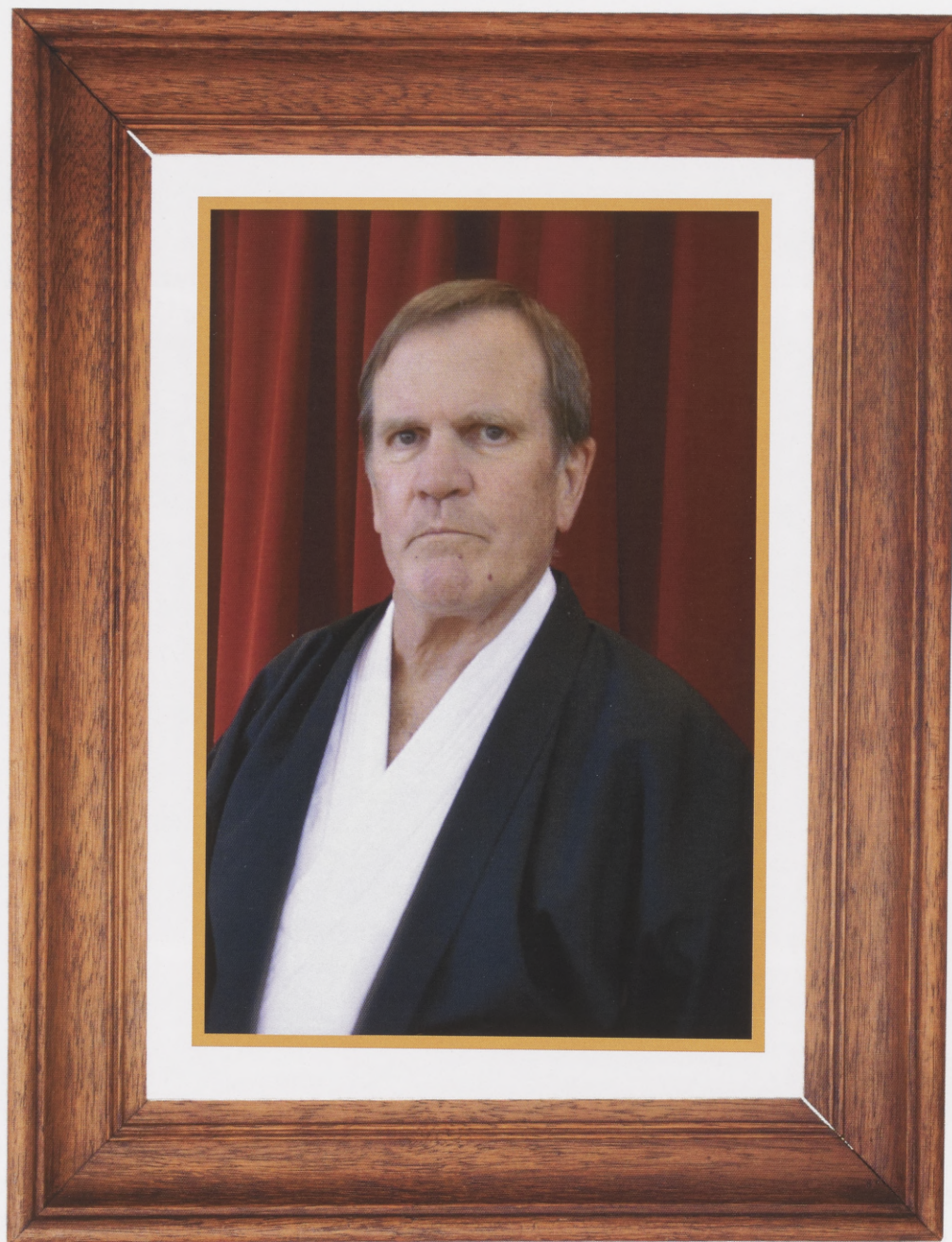
KIYOSHI TAKEDA

KIYOSHI TAKEDA

Kiyoshi Takeda has been an active member of the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute for almost 50 years. He began his involvement in 1963 serving as the Pasadena Kendo Dojo president for 16 years. During his presidency, he led the dojo in organizing a number of kendo tournaments at the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute including the U.S.-Japan 100-Year Anniversary Celebration in 1968, Hiroji Miyahara Sensei's 8th Dan Celebration in 1970, the World Kendo Championship Kick Off in 1973 and the Pasadena Kendo Dojo 25th Anniversary in 1979. Kiyoshi was also instrumental in developing strong relationships with the Waseda University Kendo team by coordinating a visit to Pasadena by 42 Waseda Kendo team members in 1974 and establishing a Sister Dojo relationship with Kobukan Dojo in Tokyo, Japan.

Demonstrating himself as a strong leader within the Pasadena Japanese community, Kiyoshi also served as treasurer of the Crown City Gardener's Federation from 1961 to 1968 and president of the Pasadena Gakuen Parent Teacher Association in 1966. In 1974, he continued his leadership with the center by joining the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute Board of Directors where he served as the bazaar chair several times and was the chairman for the PJCI's 10th, 15th and 20th anniversary celebrations.

In 1982, Kiyoshi became active with the Pasadena Pioneer Project which changed its name to Pasadena Nikkei Seniors in 1985. He served as vice-president for five years. Continuing his outstanding leadership and devotion, he has served as the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors president for 25 years and the Japanese American Senior Citizens Federation of Southern California for seven years. During his presidency for the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors, he started a number of classes and club offerings including the karaoke club, bridge club, exercise class, handicraft class and cooking class. The ever-popular lunch program began in 1985 with the assistance of his wife, Miyuki, who continues to plan and prepare the monthly lunches along with other board members. In 1995, working with the Japan Business Association of Southern California, Kiyoshi arranged to house a library of over 1,000 books and videos in the seniors' community room. During his tenure, he has increased the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors' membership from 100 members up to as many as 400 members. Kiyoshi has led the Nikkei Seniors in over 200 trips with close to 9,000 travelers to numerous sites around the world including a 7-country European tour; the Canadian Rockies; China; Mishima, Japan and cities throughout the United States. Through his service, he was recognized as a Nisei Week Pioneer in 2008 and he and Miyuki were honored as Parents of the Year in 2002. This year marks Kiyoshi's 25th year as president of the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors as he continues to demonstrate his dedication to the Nikkei community.



JIM MOORE

JAMES C. MOORE

Jim Moore was born and raised in San Francisco, California where he attended Lowell High School, and later graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. After graduation, Jim entered the business world where he managed production factories. He then moved away from production factories and in to property management and also became a real estate broker. He currently manages over 4,000,000 square feet of buildings and warehouses for the Dedeaux Family. Jim is married and happily blessed with two daughters and three amazing grandchildren.

Jim is and accomplished aikidoka, starting at the Pasadena Aiki-kai in 1980 under the tutelage of Gene and Caroline Anderson, Min Ito, Carl Linnes and Dan Nicodemo. In 1991, Jim was elected to the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute Board of Directors and has served as a representative for the Pasadena Aiki-kai continuously since that time. Jim has also been an invaluable advisor to our center in matters regarding our office rentals and tenant relations. For over 20 years, he has conducted weekly Aikido practices and has enthusiastically encouraged the Aiki-kai members' participation at our center activities and events.



ERIKA MARIKO OLSEN

JAMIE JOYCE HAGIYA

DANA FUJIKO HEATHERTON

2011 NISEI WEEK QUEEN

2010 NISEI WEEK PRINCESS
(MISS TOMODACHI)

2009 NISEI WEEK QUEEN

NISEI WEEK

The first Nisei Week was during August 12th through 18th 1934 in Little Tokyo. It started as a celebration to uplift the Japanese Community. Over time it developed into a means to promote Little Tokyo's economic base & more importantly demonstrate a message to non-Japanese that Nisei are and were a generation of Americans. The event is still going strong after 70 years.

Since the inception of Nisei Week, the goal of nurturing a transpacific cultural bridge has remained constant. Along with the Grand Parade, one of the biggest highlights of the week is the Coronation Ceremony for the Nisei Week Queen and her Court. Various Japanese Cultural and Community Organizations from across Southern California sponsor a candidate for the Nisei Week Queen.

The Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute began sponsoring a Queen Candidate in 2009 and will continue to do so in the forthcoming years. Erika Fisher has been chosen as Miss PJCI for 2012.

2011- Erika Mariko Olsen – Queen

2010 - Jamie Hagiya – Miss Tomodachi

2009 - Dana Fujiko Heatherton – Queen

2009



2011



2010



JAMIE HAGIYA

JAMIE HAGIYA

Jamie Hagiya grew up in the South Bay. At the age of 4, her parents signed her up for the local Double Dribble basketball league. She continued to play with multiple teams and leagues every weekend throughout her youth. In 1999, she was selected to travel to Japan and play for the Yonsei Basketball Organization. Jamie lettered in basketball all four years and led the South High School Spartans to three consecutive Ocean League titles prior to her 2003 graduation. She was recruited by the University of Southern California and accepted a full scholarship to play women's basketball for the Trojans. Jaime graduated from USC in 2007 with a degree in Communication. She went on to play professional basketball overseas in Greece and Spain.

She currently organizes and runs youth basketball clinics and camps all over the country and aspires to play on the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA).

More recently Jamie has become a local Pasadena Icon for the Japanese American Community. In 2010, she represented the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute on the Los Angeles Nisei Week Court. Jaime was awarded the esteemed title of Miss Tomodachi by her peers. The title of Miss Tomodachi is a recognition of friendliness and ability to foster camaraderie. It is the only designation on the Nisei Week Court that is awarded solely by one's peers. During Jaime's year on the court she generously donated her time to conduct a very successful youth basketball clinic that was organized by the organized by the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute.

Jamie is highly regarded for her bighearted spirit. She is known for unselfishly viewing her accomplishments through the lens of Japanese American community values.



The Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute Logo

In 1989 the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute adopted a new logo to represent the center. The new logo depicts a red rose inside of a Japanese style fan. The rose represents the City of Pasadena, known for its world renowned Tournament of Roses Parade with the fan representing the Japanese culture.

The logo was designed by Karen Toshima, granddaughter of Isao Toshima, one of the original 15 founders of the PJCI. Karen was tragically killed by a stray bullet in a gang shooting that had occurred in Westwood in January, 1988.



COMMUNITY CENTER



PASADENA GAKUEN



GAKUEN

Pasadena Gakuen

The original Pasadena Gakuen, a Japanese language school, was founded in 1935. The school had to be closed in 1941 due to WW II. They reopened its door after the war in 1947. In 1955, Pasadena Gakuen joined the Japanese Language School Unified System (Kyodo System).

Pasadena Gakuen has classes for students from elementary school all the way up to high school. Since 2004, classes for adults have been offered as well. Classes are open for all children and students regardless of their age, language, and cultural differences.

The speech contest is held annually. The winners of the contest are advanced to the *Rengo* speech contest conducted by all five schools of Kyodo System. High school students could earn credit by taking Japanese classes in Pasadena Gakuen. With a few exceptions, most public high schools accept the course work at Kyodo System schools for their language or elective units.

Besides language education, the school puts great effort in introducing the traditional culture and customs of Japan. Throughout the year, students can enjoy special events such as New Year's Day, Girls' Day, Boys' Day, and so on that are held in Japan.



GAKUEN TEACHERS



GAKUEN PTA







BLAINE BARKEY / TAIKO



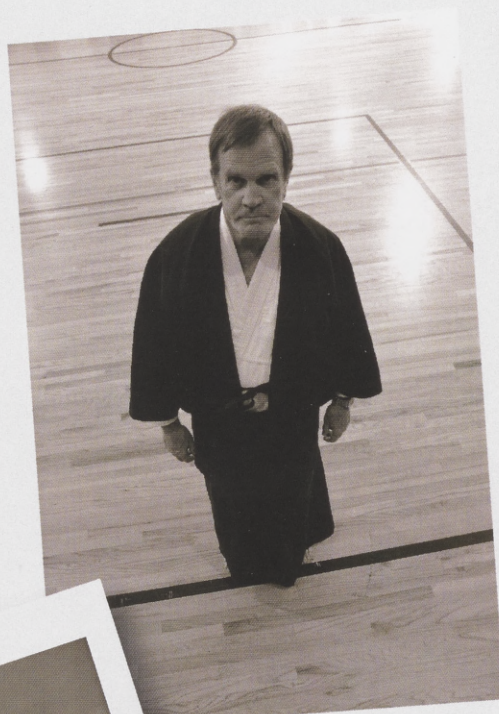
JAMES YAMAZAKI / KENDO



MIKE VERDUGO / JUDO



CATHY MIKUNI / NAGINATA



JIM MOORE / AIKIDO



ERNIE FUKUMOTO / QI GONG

RICK BEAL / KYUDO



KAZ YOKOU KITAJIMA / IKEBANA



TIM PIERING / INTERGRATED MARTIAL ARTS



KODAMA TAIKO

KODAMA TAIKO

Kodama is a group of percussionists from the greater Los Angeles area who are dedicated to performing both traditional and contemporary pieces through the sounds of taiko. The group is primarily composed of working professionals who enjoy spending their ³off² time learning and creating entertaining performance pieces.

Kodama is well known for their unique Mochitsuki (rice cake pounding) performance which combines the age-old tradition of hand-pounding mochi (sweet rice) with the sounds of taiko. This energetic custom is typically performed during the Japanese New Year's (Oshogatsu), but has lately been expanded to include any celebratory occasion. Makoto Fujii of the Japan based group Medetaya instructed Kodama in combining the art of taiko and Mochitsuki.

Kodama takes their name from the Japanese word for "echo," and literally translated means "echoing sounds." Kodama's roots stem from the collegiate group Jishin Daiko which was started in January 1994. The new name echoes back to October 1997, when Jishin Daiko founding members Dean Mimura and Karren Tsutsui reformed the group as Kodama.

The group has performed at many events and festivals around the Los Angeles area. Some past public performances include the Japan Expo, the L.A. Tofu Festival, and Nisei Week events. Kodama also performs for private functions such as weddings and corporate events.

Kodama is based out of the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute and their practices are every Thursday nights from 7:30PM until 10:00PM.



KENDO

KENDO

Kendo, meaning “way of the sword”, is the modern Japanese martial art of sword fighting. Its origins started in the Shotoku era (1711-1715). This is when the basic bamboo practice sword (shinai) and armor (bogu) were first developed. The Pasadena Cultural Institute Kendo Dojo (school) was established in 1955. One of the original Instructors, Maki Miyahara (8th Degree black belt) recently retired from practicing at the dojo at the age of 90.

The current head instructor , James Yamasaki (5th degree black belt) has been with the dojo since 1972. The dojo is currently a member of the Southern California Kendo Federation which is the largest in the United States with more than 20 dojos in the area. The dojo has members through sister dojos in Phoenix (AZ), Las Vegas (NV), and Albuquerque (NM).



JUDO

JUDO

Judo is a modern martial art that was officially created in Japan by Jigoro Kano in 1882. While its creation on paper is fairly recent, Judo's origin goes much farther back to folk style wrestling in Japanese village festivals. The festival competitors used techniques from battle fighting of feudal Japan. Over time these early competitors evolved into two categories: 1 - Those better at grappling opponents to submission on the ground. 2 - Those better at taking down opponents on their feet. The former developed into the different Japanese Jiu-jitsu styles. The latter became early Japanese Judo. Today's modern Judo was borne out of a combination of both forms. Today, Judo is one of the most widely viewed and participated sports in the world.

Judo, also known as The Gentle Way, is incredibly dynamic and might look anything but gentle. The gentle, however, does not refer to the actions of judo. Instead it refers to conditions where someone attempts to impose their will upon you. The Judo way is to not meet force head-on with force, but to give way to the action and turn its force against the attacker. This efficient and effective system allows a weaker and smaller individual the opportunity to beat a larger and stronger opponent. While the physical aspects of Judo are incredibly important, its philosophical aspects are equally as important. Master Kano's philosophical principles advocate a gentle life, in an efficient manner, with thought and consideration for all.

Judo is a magnificent sport and self-defense system that contains within it a life philosophy. Pasadena Kodokan Judo Club promotes and preserves Judo as a sport, discipline and a physical education with the greater purpose of improving all members' competitive human skills.

Pasadena Kodokan Judo Dojo follows the founding philosophy of the sport by training all members to follow the work ethic of the classic judoka ways. Our members include novice, intermediate and experienced active competitors. Every individual, whom attends our dojo for the first time, receives a complementary tour and joins the training session for an objective decision to commence the study of Judo.

PJCI's Head Instructor, Rokudan Mike Verdugo, leads an exceptionally talented team of instructors that include Kyudan's Tony Raven and Sonny Hughes, Sandans Gabriel Carbajal, Shane Herring & Curt Botelho and Shodans Wes Allard and Walter Loustari.

pasadenajudo.com



KYUDO

KYUDO

The Nanka Kyudo Kai was formed in 1996 by Rick Beal with permission from Kosaka-sensei to represent the growth of their group beyond Los Angeles to include all of Southern California. Nanka is the word used by the local Japanese Community to mean "Southern California."

Kyudo (the "Way of the Bow") is the Japanese martial art of archery. Until the 14th or 15th century, when foot soldiers began to surpass the horseman in battle, the bow and arrow were the primary weapons of the samurai. The roots of kyudo lie in those long-past days, when a warrior's worth was determined by his skills with a bow.

Kyudo is often described as a moving meditation. As in other forms of meditation, the student of kyudo learns to control his heart rate and breathing; but unlike many other forms of meditation, in kyudo the student does not become oblivious to his surroundings, but rather becomes acutely aware of them. This teaches the practitioner to react calmly and resolutely to his environment.

There are sixty people throughout the area with twenty members in the Pasadena dojo.



AIKIDO

AIKIDO

Founded in 1963, Pasadena Aiki kai is one of the longest running Aikido schools in the United States. The dojo is operated under the auspices of the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute (PJCI), and classes are held three times a week at the center.

Aikido is a Japanese martial art developed by Morihei Ueshiba and derives mainly from the martial art of Daitō-ryū Aiki-jūjutsu. Aikido is often translated as "the Way of harmonious spirit." As such, Aikido's goal is to allow practitioners to use their art to defend themselves while also protecting their attacker from injury. Performed by blending with the motion of the attacker and redirecting the force of the attack rather than opposing it head-on, Aikido requires very little physical strength. Aikido practitioners "lead" their attacker's momentum using entering and turning movements, and complete their techniques with various throws and joint locks.

Today aikido is found all over the world in a number of styles, with a broad range of interpretation and emphasis. Pasadena Aiki kai differs substantially from other martial arts schools in that they are a not-for-profit club and all of their highly qualified instructors volunteer their time. In the Pasadena Aiki kai dojo the art of Aikido is practiced for its own sake, and unencumbered by any business agenda.



NAGINATA

NAGINATA

The Pasadena Naginata Dojo has been a part of PJCI since September 1995. Naginata is an ancient Japanese martial art form which uses a weapon similar to a halberd – a sword like blade attached to a long staff. The length, weight and wide sweep of the weapon made it an efficient weapon on the battlefield during the warring periods of Japan. The circular execution and length of the weapon makes naginata one of the most fluid, graceful and deadly of classical Japanese combat systems. The naginata cut down horses and swordsmen with deadly efficiency on the open battlefield.

Atarashii Naginata was developed to allow competition and perfection of techniques through katas (pre-arrangement movements with a partner) and competitions wearing protective equipment similar to kendo with the addition of leg protectors (suneates).

The Pasadena Dojo is part of the Southern California Naginata Federation. The head instructor at Pasadena and several of the students participated in the 5th World Naginata Championships as coach and US Friendship team members last July in Himeji, Japan.

For further information, please contact Cathy Mikuni at (626) 375-4876 or cmikuni@hotmail.com. The classes are held on Saturdays, at PJCI, from 9-11 am.



QIGONG

QI GONG

MY LIFE BEFORE QIGONG:

Approximately 18 years ago I was sitting in my doctor's office contemplating what he had just told me after having suffered a heart attack. The doctor said not to worry as he would make sure that I was still alive to see my two daughters graduate high school.

Uncontrollable high blood pressure and cholesterol, caused me to suffer several more heart attacks, over the next three years. Finally, on March 28, 1997, I underwent open heart surgery to replace 4 arteries.

MY LIFE AFTER QIGONG:

Soon after my heart surgery I discovered Qigong and became an avid student. Since joining Qigong I have not missed a Tuesday morning class at the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute in 8 years! Qigong has strengthened my immune system so much that I no longer need to take medication despite my history of heart disease.

The specific purpose of our Qigong class is "anti-aging" through strengthening of the immune system. We practice a slow moving meditation process to accomplish this goal and encourage all to come join our class and learn our "anti-aging process."



INTEGRATED MARTIAL ARTS

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Integrated Martial Arts (IMA) began 6 years ago At PJCI. Tim Piering, chief instructor, has been doing martial arts for 45 years and has black belt rankings in Kodokan Judo, Shorin Ryu Karate, Taekwondo, and Aikido. He lived and studied under some great Masters in Okinawa Japan.

Sensei Andy Leeka also shares the teaching load. Sensei Leeka holds a shodan in He-len Ryu and sandan in Gosoku Ryu karate. For the past five years Sensei's Piering and Leeka have been studying Doce Pares Eskrima under Master Erwin Mosqueda 8th Dan. Both Sensei's have reached the top level of brown belt and will be testing for black next.

Integrated Martial Arts is a mixture of techniques from various fighting styles as learned by the Sensei's. Integrating various martial arts integrates mind, body, and spirit because each art has its own philosophy, type of movement, and level of speed and power. IMA has hosted several seminars including one featuring world famous Grand Master Diony Canete and international Eskrima grand champions from the Philippines.

The Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute is an absolute treasure to the community. The depth and breadth of cultural and martial arts programs is amazing given its location in the U.S. We at Integrated Martial Arts are happy to be part of the PJCI community.



I K E B A N A

IKEBANA

With many other disciplines at the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute, Ikebana is also one that is also available at the Center . Headed by The Ikku Shinan Riji of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana, Kaz Yokou Itajima teaches his style with dynamic arrangements that uses various elements such as bamboo, pine and wood as well as flowers. Many of his displays were viewed throughout Southern California, such as the L.A. Music Center, Japanese American National Museum, SanDiego Museum of Art as well as the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. We are excited to have him take time from his busy schedule to display his art at our 50th Anniversary Celebration. Besides the PJCI, classes are also held at San Gabriel Japanese Community Center. In addition to the classes, Kaz is the owner of NK Nursery in the City of Industry.



FRIENDSHIP

PASADENA-MISHIMA

YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

FRIENDSHIP

Pasadena -Mishima Friendship Youth Exchange Program

The Friendship Program brings together high school students from Pasadena and Mishima, Japan to share life experiences and develop an increased understanding of our two cultures. By giving youth the opportunity to meet others from international cultures and communities, they can develop an appreciation for their own heritage in addition to forming close relationships with their new friends.

The program is supported by the sister cities of Pasadena and Mishima, allowing both cities to alternate being host. During the trips to Japan, Pasadena students have the opportunity meet and develop friendships with the Mishima students while touring Mishima, climbing Mt. Fuji, and participating in Japanese cultural activities such as cooking, calligraphy and dressing in yukata. While in Mishima, the students are paired with home stay families to offer a greater understanding of the Japanese culture. During the last few days of the program, students are given the opportunity to tour places which have included the famous temples in Kyoto, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, as well as shopping districts in Tokyo and Osaka.

In the alternate years, Mishima students come to Pasadena to join local Pasadena students as they are introduced to American culture through visits at various Pasadena and Los Angeles area sites including the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Griffith Park Observatory, Universal City Walk and the Japanese American National Museum. In addition, the students have had the opportunity to visit Catalina Island, camp on the beach in Santa Barbara, attend professional baseball games and attend live news broadcasts at the KTLA studios with anchor Frank Buckley.

The idea for the program began in early 2001, when the city of Mishima invited several youth from the Pasadena area to participate in an International Summer Camp at Mt. Fuji, Japan. Three teenagers and two chaperones joined two exchange students from Pasadena at the camp for a week of activities and meeting new friends. It was a tremendous experience. During a meeting with Mishima Mayor Koike at the end of the program, group leader, Bryan Takeda, had mentioned how wonderful it would be to host a youth group from Mishima for a summer program in Pasadena. With the support of Mayor Koike, along with the support of the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute and the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee, the first Friendship Program was held in Pasadena in 2002.

In 2005, the Friendship Program began a Japan Tour with Pasadena travelers touring parts of Japan while the students participate in the exchange program. The students join the tour for a few days following the Friendship program before returning to Pasadena.

In August 2012, the Friendship Program will observe its 10th anniversary. In light of the tragedy of the 3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, the group is scheduled to visit the Tohoku region to show support for the people who are working hard to rebuild their lives and to pay respects to those who passed from the disaster. The ten-day tour will also include visits to our sister city of Mishima and the Tokyo area.



BRUINS

BRUINS

In the 1950's & 1960's Pasadena had a baseball league called the Pasadena Japanese Athletic Association, or PJAA. The league was comprised of boys between the ages of 9-11 years old and were involved in baseball only. At the time, it was the only organized Asian sports league in Pasadena.

However, the PJAA did not have enough players or teams in the various age categories to continue on its own and decided to join the Community Youth Council or CYC. The pioneers of PJAA's transition to CYC consisted of June and Ken Hayashi, Robert and Alice Kikkawa, Kaz and Hatsumi Kitani and Tak and Shinobu Kiriya. Needing a new name, the children as well as the board came up with The Pasadena Bruins.

The Pasadena Bruins eventually expanded their participation into basketball, and added a girls division. This time, Ed Fukutaki, June Hayashi and Robert Kikkawa were instrumental in its creation and further went on to help make the Bruins a part of the Japanese American Optimist (JAO) league. The Pasadena Bruins now currently support 35 boys and girls teams ranging from 7 years old through the prep divisions.

The Pasadena Bruins are proud of the fact that many of the children who were once players for the Bruins are now parents with children that participate in the CYC and JAO. The newest generation of Bruins now participate in a number of leagues with great success. Pasadena's involvement in the CYC and JAO organizations have enabled many children to participate in a wide scaled sports league.



AMY UTSUNOMIYA MEMORIAL YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

COMMUNITY AWARD

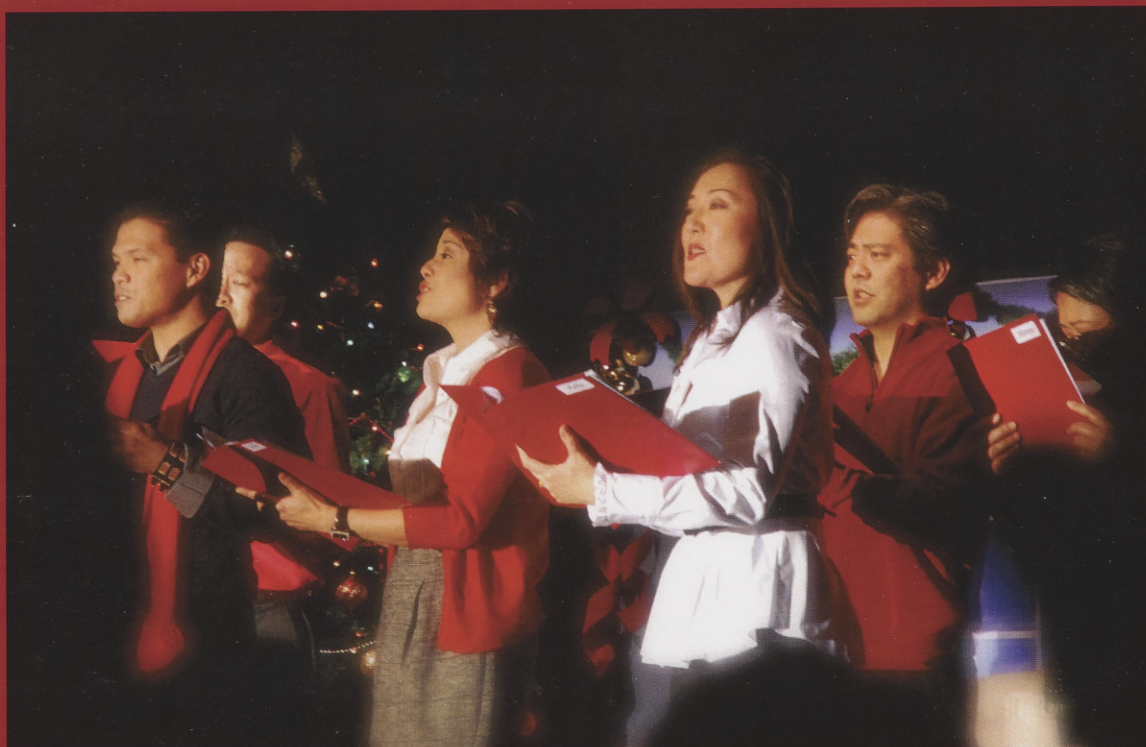
Amy Utsunomiya Memorial Youth Community Service Award

Do you know a young person that has helped one of the Japanese American organizations or community in the greater Pasadena Area during 2011?

Earlier this year, Harrison Kenichiro Jung was recognized for his community service to the Pasadena Buddhist Church and Pasadena Bruins. And Noah Lau Branson was recognized for his service to the First Presbyterian Church, Altadena.

This is an opportunity to thank any young volunteers that have helped an organization or the community in 2011.

The Amy Utsunomiya Memorial Youth Community Service Award nominating committee wants to recognize all deserving young people who have helped the community in some way during 2011. Please contact Wade Utsunomiya for nomination forms, referrals, or questions at (626) 799-7719 or utsunomiya@earthlink.net.



THE
GRATEFUL CRANE
ENSEMBLE

GRATEFUL CRANE

The Grateful Crane Ensemble, Inc. is a non-profit theater group whose mission is to present educational and theatrical programs in appreciation for the unique hardships and inspiring contributions of Japanese Americans in our country's history.

The group was founded in 2001, and celebrates its 11th Anniversary this year in 2012. Over the past ten years, The Grateful Crane Ensemble has provided live, musical entertainment for a wide variety of community events and groups. Some of these events have included internment camp reunions, holiday lunches, 88th birthday parties, anniversary parties and dinners, fundraisers and national conventions.

Notable Achievements, Productions and Awards:

- Grants in 2003 & 2004 from California Civil Liberties Public Education Program to tour and perform, *The Camp Dance: The Music and the Memories*, a tribute to those who endured the U.S. concentration camps for Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II, and how music, song and dances help internees face the hardships of "relocation."
- In 2006, *Nihonmachi: The Place To Be - A Musical Journey* at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, as part of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of San Francisco's Japantown.
- 2006 Ruby Yoshino Schaar Playwright Award (to Soji Kashiwagi) for *The Camp Dance: The Music and the Memories* – presented by the New York/National JACL.
- In 2009, received a California Civil Liberties Public Education Program grant to produce Hiroshi Kashiwagi's play, *The Betrayed*, which will be presented in 2010 at the Japanese American National Museum
- 2010 Bravo Award – presented by the Asia America Symphony Association and Guild.

credits



Audio RON OTA

Centerpiece FLOWERMART, TEMPLE CITY/BOB HAYASHI

Program Design STEVE KOYAMA

Entertainment GRATEFUL CRANE

Editing WES ALLARD

Emcee RON TOSHIMA

Gifts FUGETSU-DO CONFECTIONARIES/BRIAN KITO

History DEBORAH VERDUGO/RON TOSHIMA

Invitations BLAINE BARKEY

Ikebana KAZ YOKOU KITAJIMA

Layout BLAINE BARKEY/STEVE KOYAMA

Location PASADENA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Logistics JERI TAKEDA/JEANNIE TOSHIMA/RAFAEL RAMIREZ/JAMES YAMAZAKI

MissPJCI/Nisei Week RON DYO/CINDY DYO/LINDA INOUE/ERIKA OLSEN

Photography STEVE KOYAMA

Restoration MIKE VERDUGO & ASSOCIATES

Sponsorship BRYAN TAKEDA

Table Setting DEBORAH VERDUGO/JUNE CHIN